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U. S. Department of Agriculture
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Division of Agr'l. Statistics
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NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Release 10/21/68

Week Ending 10/21/68

WEATHER Heavy precipitation over the eastern two-thirds of the State the first half of the week fell on unfrozen soils. The rainy period lasted from two to three days at most places. Amounts averaged from two to three inches in the central portions and from three to five inches in the eastern portions. Strong winds occurred at many sites. The northern Panhandle and isolated spots elsewhere in the western third received a half inch or better, but elsewhere amounts were small.

Temperatures that averaged near normal for the week consisted of three warm days and four cool ones. Temperatures reached the 80's and 90's on Monday.

CROPS Harvest of crops was slowed or brought to a complete halt by heavy rains during the past week. Other field work was also delayed. Drouth conditions in the north-eastern area were broken and subsoil moisture improved. Pastures were also benefited by the rain.

Corn harvest made little progress with about 8 percent of the crop harvested compared with 20 percent normal. Stalk rot has hit many fields and with the rain and high winds severe lodging has occurred in some central areas and a few extreme eastern counties. Field losses may run higher than usual.

Sixteen percent of the milo has been combined, far below the 50 percent that is usually harvested by this date, and 60 percent of the soybean crop has been combined compared with 65 percent normal. Moisture content of the grain continues at a high level with the corn showing 22 percent, down 2 points from a week earlier; sorghum, 17 percent, unchanged from last week; and 13 percent moisture for soybeans. Dry weather is needed in order for farmers to get back into the fields for harvesting the crops.

Wheat has made good growth, and stands are excellent except in eastern areas where fields were washed severely by heavy rains. In the far southwestern counties, dry conditions continue and moisture is needed for the wheat crop in those counties bordering Colorado.

Harvest of sugar beets was slowed by light rain but resumed shortly after, and over one-third of the crop has now been harvested. Sugar content is running at a high level, and yields are turning out somewhat better than expected. Potato harvest continues in the Panhandle.

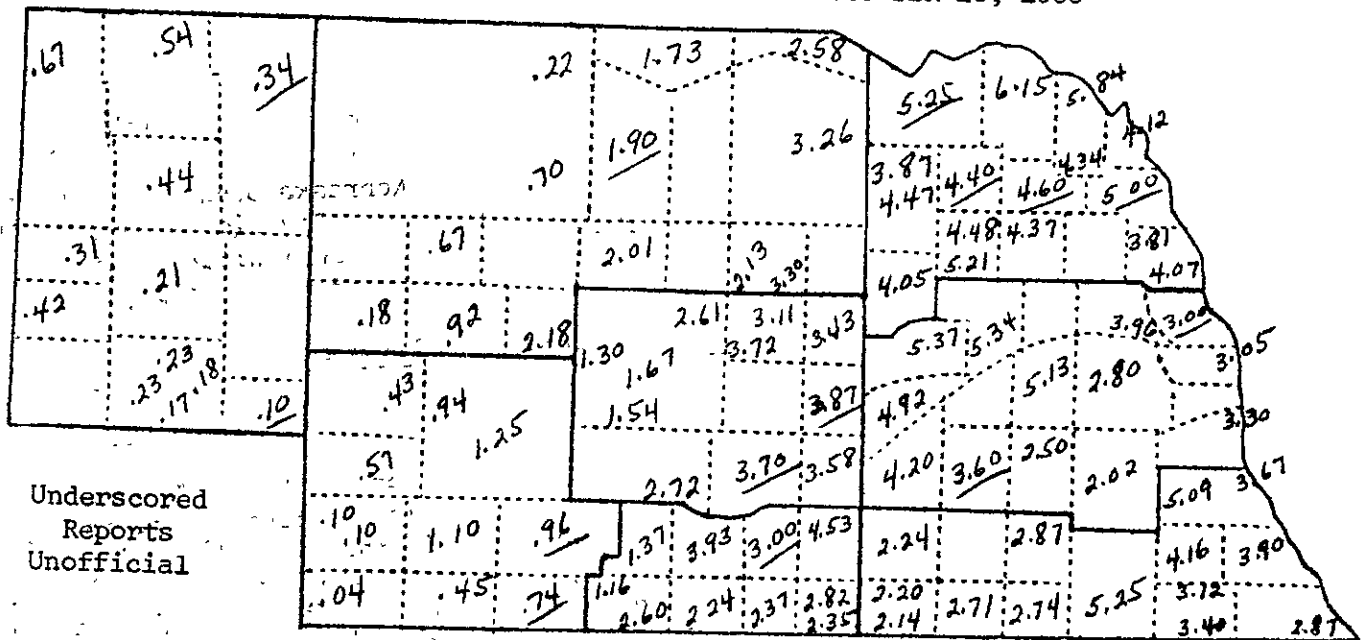
Range and pasture feed condition was improved by the moisture, and ranchers were busy moving stacks of hay to feed yards and preparing for bringing cattle into the winter feeding ranges.

LIVESTOCK Heavy rains in the eastern part of the State have caused feed lots to be extremely muddy and cattle have made rather slow gains. Sales of stocker and feeder cattle picked up materially with volume showing a good increase. Cold, wet rain caused some hardship on cattle and calves.

WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 20, 1968

<u>East</u>		<u>Central</u>		<u>West</u>	
Grand Island	3.58	Burwell	2.13	Chadron	.54
Lincoln	2.02	North Platte	1.25	Imperial	.09
Norfolk	4.48	Valentine	.22	Scottsbluff	.31
Omaha	3.05			Sidney	.17
Sioux City	4.12				

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 18, 1968



HIGHEST AND LOWEST TEMPERATURE (Highs for 24 hours ending at 12:01 a.m., and lows for 12 hours ending at 6:00 a.m., CST)

		October		14th		15th		16th		17th		18th		19th		20th	
		Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
NW	Chadron	79	46	68	42	55	32	51	19	65	31	60	38	81	48		
	Scottsbluff	87	50	70	43	50	31	49	22	64	33	60	31	76	38		
	Sidney	84	47	70	39	52	30	46	22	63	29	59	29	75	38		
NC	Burwell	82	51	73	48	57	37	42	37	55	27	64	29	75	44		
	Valentine	91	49	72	45	51	38	41	30	53	38	60	34	78	45		
NE	Norfolk	76	66	70	55	58	40	41	38	50	29	59	32	70	48		
	Sioux City	73	65	85	61	74	46	46	38	44	30	58	31	71	47		
CEN	Grand Island	85	70	86	58	61	41	45	38	58	33	61	37	70	50		
EC	Lincoln	82	71	82	62	63	45	44	42	57	34	65	40	70	53		
	Omaha	75	70	83	62	68	45	46	39	53	32	55	37	68	52		
SW	Imperial	92	53	80	47	52	36	48	25	64	28	64	32	82	41		
	North Platte	91	47	77	46	68	41	45	28	60	27	63	28	75	39		

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